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Work and Workers.

THE "SBLE" AT NEW HAVEN.

By W. M. H. COBB,
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THESE initials, as many readers of the BIBLICAL WORLD are aware, stand for the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, which is composed of about two hundred American scholars in both Old and New Testament departments. Its organ, the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, is becoming familiar in the still more condensed abbreviation, *JBL*.

The society is sixteen years old. Its meetings, at which papers are offered and discussed, are usually held in June and December; from these papers selections are made for the *Journal*, which publishes nothing but original matter.

The number present at the meetings varies from fifteen to fifty, the latter limit having been reached only once, when exceptional attractions were presented. But if we look in on one of these small gatherings, for example, the recent one at New Haven (June 4 and 5), we shall be disposed to weigh rather than count the personnel of the assembly. The president of the society, Professor Francis Brown, of Union Seminary, is reading the annual address, which gives us glimpses along the front line of biblical research during the year.

Professor Thayer, of Harvard, reports progress from a committee (appointed in accordance with the suggestion of his presidential address a year ago), that has in contemplation no less bold an enterprise than the establishment of an American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine; a project already warmly endorsed by the American Oriental Society.

Papers were offered at this meeting by Professors Hincks and Moore, of Andover; Dr. Ward, of the *Independent*; Professor Lyon, of Harvard; Dr. Peters, of New York; Professor Beecher, of Auburn, and several others. The younger members, as well as the leaders, had a place on the programme. Some of the topics treated related to critical suggestions, which were presented with the aid of the blackboard; others were more general; for example, "Christ's Use of the Old Testament," "The Vocabulary of Sacrifice." While nearly all present took part in the discussions, Professors C. A. Briggs, J. H. Thayer, and B. W. Bacon were among the foremost critics; it is easy to infer that specious novelties, and antiquated fallacies, would find scant hospitality.

The writer recalls a single instance—years ago—when such a novelty, being broached at a meeting of the society, was met with a sharp question or two, followed by the exclamation, “nothing in it!” which effectually buried that notion.

At the New Haven meeting, Professor Driver and George Adam Smith were elected honorary members, a position which had been accepted previously by Ellicott, Cheyne, Sanday, Weiss, Godet, Schrader, and others.

THE third edition of Professor Sanday's Bampton Lectures on *Inspiration* has been issued by Longmans. An appendix has been added containing a sermon by Dr. Sanday treating of Ex. 34:6, 7, the early Old Testament conception of God as infinitely righteous and infinitely merciful. The new edition is announced at a reduced price.

THE chair of New Testament Interpretation and Criticism at Yale Divinity School has been filled by the appointment to that position of Benjamin Wisner Bacon, a pastor at Oswego, N. Y., and the author of two volumes, the *Genesis of Genesis*, and the *Triple Tradition of the Exodus*, setting forth the analyst's view of the early Old Testament literature.

DR. E. A. ABBOTT has completed his elaborate work on the Gospels, written for the new Biblical Encyclopædia edited by Sutherland Black. It was originally intended to make this Encyclopædia one large volume, but it is doubtful whether this will be possible. Dr. Abbott has devoted the most extraordinary labor to the preparation of this work, which will undoubtedly be recognized as a contribution to the subject of momentous interest and importance. It will probably appear in fuller form with notes as a separate book.

DURING the past five years the British and Foreign Bible Society have published the Bible in fifty-two versions and dialects, which, added to the work of the society in previous years, makes in all three hundred and eighty-one languages and dialects in which the whole or portions of the Bible are now in use for evangelization. All but thirty-eight of these translations were made within the present century. The American Bible Society has been instrumental in publishing or circulating about one hundred of the whole number.

A VALUABLE map of the present environs of Jerusalem is published by Baron Schick in the last number of the German Palestine Society's *Journal*. It is based on the ordnance survey of Captain C. W. Wilson, and represents the suburbs of that city precisely as they were in the fall of 1895. The same number contains a full list of the Palestine literature of 1894, prepared by Dr. Benzinger; a dissent by Socin from Anderlind's previously published opinion that Solomon's horses were imported from Spain; and an interesting

set of plans, charts, and maps of Palestine, prepared by travelers from the seventh to the sixteenth centuries.

THE "Bible Israelites" are a new sect of Jews who have appeared in Russia in the provinces of Ekaterinoslav and Kerson. The *Independent* thus indicates their position: They "look upon the New Testament as containing the authoritative utterances of a divinely appointed prophet, and while refusing to bestow on Jesus Christ the title of Messiah, or Son of God, they fully admit that his New Testament is a newer and a better revelation than anything contained in the Old." They "pledge themselves to meet regularly, and at stated intervals, for the study of the Scriptures. They no longer consider as binding those points of Judaic ceremonial and law which, although put forward as special features of the Old Covenant are as specially abrogated in the New by the teaching and example of Jesus."

PROFESSOR JOHN M. TYLER, of Amherst College, has issued an attractive work with the title *The Whence and the Whither of Man* (Scribner's, \$1.75). In it he discusses the position of man in creation and those deep questions of life and immortality with which we are all concerned. As the author "takes for granted the probable truth of the theory of evolution as stated by Mr. Darwin, and that it applies to man as really as to any lower animal," his profound Christian faith gives to the book something of an appearance of a defense of Christian truth by a scientist. It is a worthy successor in the Morse Lectures to Principal Fairbairn's *Place of Christ in Modern Theology*. One definition is worthy to be preserved: "Christianity is the contagion of a divine life" (p. 192).

A SERIES of Sunday evening lectures upon "Stumbling Blocks; or, Difficulties of Thoughtful Minds in Bible History and Doctrine," is being given in Chicago by the Rev. P. S. Henson, D.D., pastor of the First Baptist Church of this city. The subjects are as follows: "The Story of Creation," "The Story of Adam," "The Story of Eve," "The Story of the Fall," "The Story of the Flood," "The Story of the Sacrifice of Isaac," "The Story of Scripture Savagery," "The Story of the Sins of the Saints," "The Story of Joshua and the Sun," "The Story of Balaam's Ass," "The Story of Jonah and the Fish," "The Doctrine of the Miraculous Conception," "The Doctrine of Regeneration," "The Doctrine of the Blood," "The Doctrine of the Devil," "The Doctrine of Hell," "The Doctrine of the Resurrection."

AN article upon Recent Literature on the Apocrypha appears in the *Expository Times* for April. Bissell's *Commentary on the Apocrypha* in the Lange series of commentaries (Scribners) is given the highest place, followed by the two volumes on the *Apocrypha* edited by Dr. Wace in the *Speaker's Commentary* (Murray). Other smaller works of value named are Churton's *Uncanonical and Apocryphal Scriptures* (Whittaker) and Deane's *Book of Wisdom* (Macmillan). The variorum edition of the Apocrypha by Mr. Ball

is commended. For translations, the one now to supersede all others is that recently published (Macmillan) by the Company of Revisers who gave us in 1881 the present revision of the New Testament and in 1885 the present revision of the Old Testament. It is "the best edition and most lucid explanation of the Apocrypha ever published, marks an epoch in the history of the Apocrypha, and deserves all the recognition we can give it."

A SMALL book entitled *Studies in the New Testament*, by Professor R. M. Smith, Ph. D. (Nashville, Tenn.: M. E. Pub. House. 163 pp., 75 c.), aims to give some very elemental information to the new student of the Greek Testament concerning why he should read the original, some characteristics of Greek as compared with English, and some explanations of proper names and general terms which occur in the New Testament. The explanations are often useful and good, although sometimes they are incorrect. Most of them would be found in a good commentary and lexicon. To this portion of the book is added a collection of allusions to the Old and New Testament history which the writer has gathered from Herodotus, Strabo, Josephus, and Tacitus; also some remarks upon helps to the study of the Greek Testament; and finally, three appendices, one of them a chart of New Testament events and dates. The author has thus gathered together miscellaneous results of his investigations and teaching which would be of some use to beginners in Bible study, but which contain nothing new, and make no contribution either of fact or arrangement to the subject described by the title of the book.

THOMAS BAILEY SAUNDERS has translated an address of Harnack before the Evangelical Union of Berlin upon *Christianity and History* (Macmillan & Co.). This is an apologetic lecture, not upon the changes which Christianity has undergone nor upon the influence which it has exerted, but upon the difficulty suggested by the possibility of union between the eternal and the historical. Harnack with vigor and fervor defends Christianity—or the Ritschlean Conception of Christianity against three serious assaults. "Grant that Jesus was an incomparable person, still he lived many centuries ago, and it is therefore impossible to reach him with our sorrows and our needs, and lay hold of him as the rock of our life." The third objection should be especially noticed: "You may talk about Jesus as you like," Harnack supposes the objector to say, "and he may have been all you declare, but you have no certainty of this, because historical criticism has obliterated his picture in part and made it uncertain in part." Harnack calls this attack the most serious of all. He says, as he is wont to say, that the virgin birth and the resurrection must be surrendered. And even "the picture of his life, his words and teachings, appear completely transformed by historical investigation." But he still holds that "the heart of Christ's manifestations and the sense of his teachings" are untouched by criticism. His great contention is that the certainty—of faith must rest where its content is—rest upon God the Lord and confidence in Jesus Christ, and not upon miracles or any exter-

nal proofs or authority. The lecture is a suggestive and characteristic production of the great teachers and merits careful reading by friend or foe.

THE February and March numbers of the *Expository Times* contain an article descriptive of the person and work of Professor W. Sanday, D.D., LL.D., of Oxford University. The writer is J. Vernon Bartlett, M.A., of Mansfield College, Oxford. Dr. Sanday is fifty-three years old, and is recognized as one of the ablest and most influential New Testament scholars in Great Britain. His first publication was in 1872, on the *Authorship and Historical Character of the Fourth Gospel*. This was followed in 1876 by *The Gospels in the Second Century*. In 1883 he wrote brief commentaries on Galatians and Romans for Ellicott's *Commentary for Schools*. In 1891 he published nine lectures under the title *The Oracles of God*. In 1893 his Bampton Lectures on *Inspiration* appeared, and in the same year he contributed the article upon the *Gospels* to the revised edition of Smith's *Dictionary of the Bible*. Last year, 1895, he, with the collaboration of Mr. Headlam, of Oxford, furnished the first New Testament volume to the International Critical Commentary, the volume on *Romans*. Dr. Sanday has also been one of the largest and best contributors to the *Expositor* for a number of years, his chief articles being upon the Gospels. These writings are esteemed by all biblical scholars as occupying the front rank in biblical literature. The five elements which Mr. Bartlett names as characterizing Dr. Sanday's work, and which give him and his writings so wide and strong an influence, are: Scientific method, sobriety of judgment, width of erudition, exactitude of scholarship, and lucidity of style. These qualities, singly and in combination, make him the worthy successor of Bishop Lightfoot and Dr. Hort.